

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 22, 2014

The Honorable Ernest Moniz
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20585

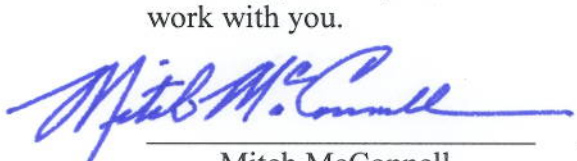
Dear Secretary Moniz:

We appreciate the recent action taken by your department to advance decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) efforts at the Paducah, Kentucky Department of Energy (DOE) site. Specifically, we note the placement of a new DOE Site Lead at Paducah which had remained unfilled for some time, DOE's interest in the participation of small businesses at the site, and most recently the award of the indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) cleanup contract. As you know, we advocated for your department to take each of these important steps.

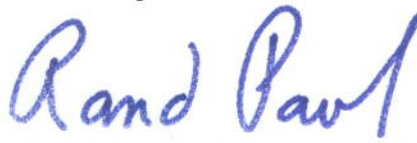
As we have discussed with you personally on multiple occasions, the successful cleanup of the Paducah DOE site, including the gaseous diffusion facility itself, is vitally important to the health, safety and economy of the community. Following the award of the IDIQ contract, we now ask that you support commencing full scale D&D of the gaseous diffusion plant, while also ensuring that ongoing environmental remediation continues at an aggressive pace. We expect the department to move quickly in executing vital cleanup work, including that which is associated with the IDIQ contract, in order to encourage the hiring of laid-off workers in the community. Congress has appropriated funds expressly for cleanup activities and both the House and Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittees have made clear that Congress expects the department to begin full D&D work at the site in a timely fashion. In that regard, what is DOE's long-term plan for cleanup at the site following completion of the IDIQ contract? We also ask that DOE improve communication with the community and closely examine whether current security levels are adequate to ensure the safety of the sensitive material that continues to be stored at the site.

We believe the community has been patient with the department during this difficult transition process and that the cleanup work—which the community, the delegation and the department all agree is vital—represents an opportunity to employ workers in the community, many of whom have unique skills applicable to performing these tasks. Again, we appreciate your commitment to these efforts and we urge you to move quickly to begin the cleanup process in earnest.

We thank you for your attention to these important matters and look forward to continuing to work with you.



Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senator



Rand Paul, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Ed Whitfield
U.S. Member of Congress